


INTIMATIONS.

POSITIVELY THE LAST
PERFORMANCE,
FOR THE BENEFIT OF
SIGNORA LUBICCI
AND
SIGNEUR CATTANEO.
GRAND CONCERT.
Particulars will be given in a future issue.
Hongkong, 28th February, 1883. [397]


NAVAL CONTRACT, 1883-84.

SEALED TENDERS, in Duplicate, will be received by the Undersigned, until NOON, on **THURSDAY, 1st 8th proximo,** from persons desirous of supplying the following Articles for the use of H. M. Navy for the year 1883-84, viz:

BISCUIT.	RAISINS.
SOFT BREAD.	RICE.
FRESH BEEF.	SUGAR.
" VEGETABLES	TEA.
" POTATOES.	MILK.

W. WHEAT.

Printed Forms of Tenders and further particulars can be obtained at the Naval Storekeeper's Office.

The right to reject the lowest or any Tender is reserved.

WILLIAM HYNES,
Officer Performing Storekeeping Duties,
H. M. Victualling Yard,
Hongkong, 26th February, 1883. [398]

W. BREWER will land ex "OCEANIC" a Quantity of New and Important BOOKS

A large Selection of very fine PHOTOGRAPHS of Professional Societies, by Sargery, Mays & Co.

The **AUTOPHONE—A Musical Instrument** that any one can play.

Sweet Caporal CIGARETTES and all other brands of the same makers.

A quantity of Cheap German Literature

Dutton's COLLECTIONS of MUSIC, "Gems of English Song," "Gems of Waldeins," &c.

27
 Symplocite PENS, NEW CIGAR LIGHTERS
 A very elegant lot of Photograph FRAMES.
 FINE ART GOODS, &c.
 W. REEVE, Bookseller, &c.
 THE
 NATIONAL MARINE INSURANCE
 ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.
 Incorporated with Limited Liability under the
 Companies' Acts.
 CAPITAL, £1,000,000 in 100,000 Shares of
 £10 each.
 FIRST ISSUE 50,000 SHARES,
 Of which 15,000 will be required for allotment
 in the Colonies and abroad. It is proposed to
 form a branch office in the Colonies.
 See Application, "The Shipwreck, the Sullins
 and £1 Three months after Allotment.
 C.M. 23rd March 1884, 25, a group of 11

as "Reserve Liability," and cannot be called except in the event of the Company being wound up.

DIRECTORS:

The Hon. H. W. Peter Sprinfield, Chairman, Chelmsford, Essex, Director of the Royal Mutual Life Assurance Society; Chairman of W. J. ALSTON, Esq., Director of the Royal Mutual Life Assurance Society, 14, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C. 2.

T. H. AXKINS, Esq., (Messrs. Atkins & Co. Australian Merchants, 8, St. Helens's Place, London, E.C. 4).

THOMAS BELL, Esq., (Messrs. James Stewart & Co., Merchants, 7, East India Square, London, E.C. 3).

H. T. GADDUS, Esq., (Messrs. H. T. Gaddus & Co., Merchants, 57, Brown Street, Manchester).

E. E. GILMAN, Esq., (Messrs. Gilman Brothers & Co., Merchants, Dashedown House, N. 1, Broad Street, London, W. 1).

C. LYNN GRANT, Esq., (Messrs. Adamson, E.

China and Japan).

J. M. LEHRMAN, Esq., (Messrs. J. & G. H. Toth & Co., Merchants, 13, Fenchurch Avenue, and Bankers).

DR. W. LEVIN, Esq., (Office of Messrs. Rodd Alexander & Co., 44, Cleveland Square, Hyde Park).

Q. DUNNAN ROWDS, Esq., (Messrs. Malcom Brunker & Co., East and West India Merchants, 25, St. Mark Lane).

ROBERT WIGGLES, Esq., (Messrs. Money & Sons, Limited, Shipowners, Lombard Street, Director of the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited. (With power to add to their number).

UNDEWRITTEN:

PERCY FRANKS, Esq.,

BANKERS:

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND Limited, Threadneedle Street, &c.,

SOLICITORS:
Messrs. PRELPS, SIDGWICK & BIDDLE
18, Gresham Street, E.C.

AUCTIONEERS:
Messrs. PRINCE WATERHOUSE & Co.
44, Gresham Street, E.C.

BROKERS:
Messrs. COATES, SON & Co.,
99, Gresham Street, E.C.

SECRETARY: (pro tem.)
Mr. THOMAS NETTLESHIP.

TEMPORARY OFFICES:
61, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

THIS Company is formed for the purpose
conducting the general business of Marine
Insurance, introducing the mutual principle of

The whole of the £5,000 Shares offered by the Company in England have been allotted, and the portion reserved for the Colonies and abroad is now offered.

and Japan, must be lodged with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Shanghai, on a Deposit of 100 millions per share appearing on or before the end of April, 1883.

Where no allotment is made, the deposit must be returned in full, and in case a less number of Shares be allotted than is applied for, the deposit will be appropriated in whole or in part as the case may be, to the payment of the amount due on allotment.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from

ADAMSON, BELL & CO.
Agents.

Hongkong, 26th February, 1883.

THE FRENCH MAIL.

The M. M. steamer *Ironclough*, with the outward French mail, passed Cape St. J. at 8 a.m. on the 23rd, and may be expected on or about the 26th instant.

THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The O. & C. steamer *Oceanic*, with the American mail, leaves Yokohama on the 24th and is due here on or about the 28th instant.

STAMPEERS EXPECTED.

The French steamer *Amerique* left Saigon on the 22nd, and may be expected here on the 23rd instant.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Trinidad* is expected to arrive here on or about the 24th instant.

The E. & A. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Tanaka* is expected to arrive here on or about the 24th instant.

POST-OFFICE NOTICES.

The authorised List of Mails in connection with this paper is the one published twice each day in our Extra, which is corrected to a much later hour than that

A MAIL WILL CLARE
 For Amoy and Manila.—For Emeral
 day, the 28th inst., at 7.30 A.M.
 For Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow
 Nanna, to-day, the 26th inst., at 11.30 A.M.
 For Swatow and Shanghai.—For Kwao
 to-day, the 26th inst., at 11.30 A.M.
 For Straits and Calcutta.—For Consist
 morrow, the 27th inst., at 9.30 P.M.
 For Amoy and Tamsui.—For Railoon
 morrow, the 28th inst., at 3.30 P.M.
 For Straits, Colombo, and Bombay.
 For Amoy, the 28th inst., at 8.0

For Nagasaki and Yokohama.—Per *Sun*
on Wednesday, the 7th March, at 11.30 A.
HOURS FOR CLOSING THE CONTRACT
MAILS.
THE ENGLISH MAIL.
The following hours are observed in Office
of Mails, &c., by the British Contract Packet
Day of Departure.
NOON.—Money Order Office closes.
2.00 P.M.—Registry of Letters closes.
ing of all printed matter and patterns
3.00 P.M.—Mails closed, except for Late Letters.
3.30 P.M.—Letters may be handed with the

of 10 cents until
3.30 P.M.—when the Post Office closes out
3.40 P.M.—Late Letters may be posted on
the packet with late fee of 10 cents;
time of departure.

THE FRENCH MAIL.
Day before Departure.
5 P.M., Money Order Office closes. Post
closes, except the night box, which is
open out of office hours.

Day of Departure.
7 A.M.—Post Office opens.

10 A.M., Registry or Letters closes. ~~Post~~ all printed matter and patterns closes.

11 A.M., Mail closes, except for Late Letters.

11.10 A.M., Letters may be posted with Late Fee of 10 cents until

11.30 A.M., when the Post Office closes and

11.40 A.M., Late Letters may be posted on the packet with Late Fee of 10 Cents at the time of departure.

MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET
The French Contract Packet, "ANAL", will be despatched on **TUESDAY**, the instant, with Mails to and through the

Kingdom, Europe, & via Naples: to S
Strait Settlements, Batavia, Burmah,
lon, the Australasian Colonies, Pondi
Madras, Calcutta, Aden, Egypt, Malta,
tar, and Mauritius.

The usual hours will be observed in
the Mails, &c.

MAILS BY THE U. S. PACKET
The United States Mail Packet "ARA
will be despatched on THURSDAY, 5
March, with Mails for Japan, San Fran
the United States, Canada, Honolulu,

2.30 P.M. Register ceases.
2.45 P.M. Post Office closes, but Correspondence may be posted on board the Packet with a Fee of 10 cents extra Postage until the day of departure.

MAILS BY THE BRITISH PACKET
The British Contract Packet "PERU" will be despatched on **TUESDAY**, the 1st March, with Mails to and through the Kingdom and Empires of *Bristolia*; to the Settlements, Bahavia, Barbadoes, Ceylon, Adeu, Ebroet, Malta, and Gibraltar.

MONEY LETTERS.
Public attention is called to the following extract from the Hongkong Postal Circular, No. 100:—
"The Post Office declines all responsibility for unregistered Letters containing Bank A/c. and, where Registration has been neglected, will MAKE NO ENQUIRIES into alleged contents of such letters."

Boxes of letters are sometimes received at the Post Office unsealed, that is to say, that they are fastened with sealing wax, but there is no impression of a seal.

The attention of boxholders is called to the necessity of carefully sealing such boxes with some recognisable seal, and of sending the box or receipt with them. The omission of the latter precaution leaves a doubt as to whether the contents of the box ever reached the Post Office; the omission of the former, whether part of them might not have been intercepted by the enemy.

LOCAL AND INDIAN PARCEL POST.
1.—Small Parcels may be sent by Post at Rates between Hongkong and any of the Post Offices in China, as well as to Japan, and Pakhoi, the Straits Settlements, Ceylon, and They must not exceed the following dimensions: 2 feet long, 1 foot broad, 1 foot deep, weight then 5 lbs., nor be smaller than 3 in. by 2 in. Such parcels may be wholly closed or bear this special endorsement, *Parcel, contents not letter*, but any parcel may be opened by tion of the Postmaster General. In the C

value is required, a printed form for which is supplied gratis. The Registration of Patents in India and Ceylon is compulsory.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

Letters, per 4 on	10
Post Cards, each	3
Books, Patterns, and Commercials }	2 1/2
Papers, per 2 ea.	2
Newspapers & Prices Current, each	10
Registration	2
Do. with return receipt	15
Commercial papers signify such papers	

No responsibility can be accepted by the Office for erroneous replies to verbal inquiries or to notes addressed to subordinate officers. Profits taken off to sell stamps should especially not be regarded as able to give correct information. The Postal Guide alone is the standard point on which such information may be required.

To provide means of remitting small amounts of money to or from this Colony and be the Ports of China, the Postmasters and Agents of this Office are allowed (but not required) to purchase Hongkong Postage Stamps from foreign residents.

The Stamps tendered for sale must not exceed \$50 in value, must be perfectly clear and in good condition, and in strips of at least ten. No separate Stamps will be purchased. The Stamps must be presented personally or accompanied by a note.

Letters containing Stamps should be

observation.

EXTRACTS.

SILENCE.

"There is a silence which hath been no sound. There is a silence which no sound may break. In the cold gray—under the deep, deep sky, O, in the deep where no life is found. No voice is heard—no life there is found. But clouds and cloudy shadows wander free. That never spoke, over the life ground. But in green rain, in the doleful walls Of antique palaces, where Man hath been, Through the dim form, or wild lyons, call. And only, that fit continually between, Shriek to the echo, and low wide moan. Thence the true Silence is, self-conscious and alone."

DREAMS.

"It is not death, that sometimes in a night. This dream breath shall take its specious flight. That some time might come, that now, only in sunlight to the sun shall not in light. That this was a dream, that shall be quite. And all this ruddy dream, that shall be quite. That thoughts shall cease, and the immortal spirit To lap in alien air and laid below. It is not death to know this, but to know That those thoughts, which visit at night. In tender pilgrimage, will cease to go. So tender and so, and when grass waves Over the past-way, there may be then No resurrection in the minds of men."

QUEER STORIES.

Sir Rupert Benck was the permanent official of an official Government office. His official career had been distinguished in a quiet, unobtrusive way, and he had been responsible for many years to the satisfaction of successive Ministers. He was an honest, conscientious man, somewhat narrow-minded and old-fashioned in his notions, but quite at ease in the duties of his department, and just sufficient of a courier to be able to humour the right honourable personages who rolled in upon his assistants. Considering that he had seen fifty years' service, he was naturally elderly, formal in manners, inclined to be pompous, and not averse to a little judicious adulation from his inferiors. He was fairly popular in the office, and he was fairly popular in the office, and he was fairly popular in the office.

One afternoon he was sent for by the Minister, and found his lordship looking rather out of temper. "Have you seen this, Sir Rupert?" inquired the Minister, handing him a newspaper. Sir Rupert glanced at the paragraph which his lordship indicated, and as he read it he turned crimson to the roots of his hair with mingled indignation and horror. The paper was a daily one, which had acquired an unsavory notoriety for obtaining back-stair information, and among other items in that day's issue were a few lines referring to that contemplated change in the establishment of the office, professedly communicated by some one behind the scenes. Sir Rupert was quite aghast at such a violation of etiquette, and to make matters worse, the information was not only accurate, but it revealed what had been intended for the present to be kept secret.

"This is a scandalous!" he exclaimed, as soon as he could speak. "It shall be strictly inquired into."

"It is a great nuisance," said his lordship, glancing again at the paragraph. "There is nothing very important in it, to be sure, but it is so happens that I told an influential constituent only yesterday that no changes were in contemplation, and that he came to seek a post for his son. I never anticipated this would be made public. It may lose me several votes."

"Not necessarily, my lord; under the circumstances we must try and do something for the young man," said Sir Rupert, untroubled.

"Quite so, Sir Rupert; a very good suggestion," replied his lordship, eagerly. "If you could manage it, without injustice to any one, of course—I should be obliged to you. As you say, the circumstances of the case are quite exceptional."

"There will be no difficulty about that, my lord. But I must make strict inquiries about the paragraph. It is worse than an indiscretion; it is a breach of official confidence, and I shall not rest till I have discovered the writer," said Sir Rupert, hotly indignant.

"After all, it is harmless in itself," remarked the Minister, who seemed to have recovered his good-humour. "But, of course, the principle is wrong. That sort of thing should be put a stop to certainly. Good day, Sir Rupert, and thank you."

Sir Rupert hurried back to his room in a high state of indignation, firmly resolved to sift the matter to the bottom. His official mind was severely outraged by such an occurrence. The idea of which had never happened before within his experience. He immediately rang the bell for his private secretary.

"Mr. Martineau," he said, stiffly, when that gentleman made his appearance. "Will you do me the favour to read this?"

Mr. Martineau was a tall, thin, and preternaturally grey man with very eyes. He was dressed in a plain, but with a speck of unscrupulousness in his character which had materially aided his career. Sir Rupert had appointed him his private secretary in recognition of his official zeal and conspicuous ability; but in his heart, he rather mistrusted him.

"It is dangerous," said Sir Rupert, after his secretary had read the paragraph with perfect composure, and without comment. "Have you any idea how the papers obtained this information?"

"Not the least," returned Mr. Martineau. "It is, of course, impossible to keep anything secret which is known to half-dozen people. Mr. Martineau, I am afraid for your sake, I am afraid for your sake, I am afraid for your sake."

"I don't suppose the paragraph was written by anyone in the office," replied his secretary coolly. "Probably some one of us discreetly let drop a word or two outside, which was snatched up."

"Then I will find out who it was Mr. Martineau; that I am determined," returned Sir Rupert. "Will you be good enough to request each of the gentlemen who have been employed upon the subject to step up. I will see them each separately."

restrained from employing a detective from fear of compromising the dignity of his department. But a severe shock still was yet in store for him. At length came a paragraph which actually gave the gist of a confidential conversation that had taken place a few days previously between the Minister and the Minister's private room.

Sir Rupert was dumfounded, and could hardly believe the evidence of his own eyes. The thing seemed absolutely incredible. For he had never breathed a word to a soul, and the Minister was a model of discretion. Yet he recognised in the paragraph some expressions and phrases which had been made use of at the interview, showing clearly that the paragraph was not a fabrication. The Minister was no less astounded, and expressed himself equally at a loss to account for the phenomenon. But though his lordship frankly accepted his assurance that he knew nothing of the matter, Sir Rupert could not help noticing that the Minister glanced rather suspiciously at him, as though expecting him to confess to him.

He could not resist the temptation to try and ascertain indirectly whether the Minister was absolutely maddening, especially as his lordship's genial manner gave Sir Rupert no excuse for venturing his virtuous indignation.

Sir Rupert locked himself in his room, boiling over with rage and vexation, and endeavored to think calmly over the situation. There was not, however, much field for speculation. It was perfectly obvious that the information must have come either through him or the Minister, as no third person was present. As regards himself, however, Sir Rupert was absolutely certain that he had never breathed a word to a soul, and he had never breathed a word to a soul, and he had never breathed a word to a soul.

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"Full of this disgusting suspicion," Sir Rupert huffed up the document in his private safe, and was relieved to find it in the identical corner where he remembered to have placed it immediately after the interview. Apparently, it had never been disturbed, and on glancing at the memorandum on the back he breathed more freely. They consisted of a few disjointed sentences very illegibly written in pencil, and which, not convey any meaning to any one except himself. It seemed clear, therefore, that he would have to reproach himself with it. He would have to defend any one to make head or tail of his notes—unless, indeed, it might be some person who had a previous knowledge of the subject under discussion, and could guess the views of the parties. There was no one in the office who was capable of this, except, perhaps, his private secretary, Mr. Martineau. It seemed almost absurd to suspect him, yet it was certainly the fact that he was the only person who would be able to make anything out of the memorandum. He had access to the safe, too, and if he reported truly he was not a young man of high principle. Sir Rupert was quite aghast at such a violation of etiquette, and to make matters worse, the information was not only accurate, but it revealed what had been intended for the present to be kept secret.

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impelled to answer. Under this horrible form of torture, he was forced to reveal the most important State secrets, while the whole in mental agony, but utterly helpless. Suddenly it struck him that the flood had adopted a tone of voice which was unaccountably familiar. Sir Rupert woke with a start, and as he did so, he became conscious of a human voice, which said in an insinuating whisper:

"What did Lord X— reply?"

Immediately it flashed across Sir Rupert's mind that the voice was his wife's, and simultaneously a terrible suspicion seized him. Was it possible that Lady Benck had taken advantage of his habit of talking in his sleep to extract information from him about the office? If so, what could be her object? Unfortunately, poor Sir Rupert did not long remain in doubt, for in the morning, when he awoke, he found a note pinned to his pillow, which was a copy of the paragraph which had appeared in the paper.

He looked ten years older when he reached the office the next morning. He felt distressed and humiliated to the last degree; so soon, in fact, was his grief that his wife had been constrained to express her penitence and impudently to have been so near the truth. He felt that he had been deceived, and he felt that he had been deceived, and he felt that he had been deceived.

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HONGKONG MARKETS.

As reported by Quinlan on the 25th Feb, 1893.

COTTON GOODS.

American Drill, 24 yards, per piece \$2.05 to \$2.10
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WOOLLEN GOODS.

As reported by Quinlan on the 25th Feb, 1893.

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FIRST DAY, 21ST FEBRUARY.

100-443887-100

The CHAMPION STAKES, a forced entry for all China, Manila and Japan ponies winners at this meeting, optional to beaten ponies; weight for inches; entrance \$20; winners of two races, \$30; of three or more races, \$50, with \$100 added. One-mile-and-a-half.

Mr. Paul's Prigunier, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Nichols) 1
Mr. Paul's Montezuma, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Nichols) 2
Mr. John Paul's Driving Cloud, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Allen) 3
Mr. York's Strathparker, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Tennant) 0
Mr. St. Andrew's Bandman, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Pond) 0
Mr. Paul's Renfer, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Abner) 0
Mr. Henry's Hiale, 11st. 4lb. (Mr. Reynolds) 0
Mr. Paul's Sunlight, 11st. 2lb. (Mr. Bidwell) 0
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Second Violin, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Brandt) 0

The light was waning fast when the ponies were got away for this race to a good start. Montezuma led off with Driving Cloud second, and Renfer third, though the latter was displaced by Strathparker coming down the straight. Montezuma passed the Grand Stand with a lead of about three lengths. Driving Cloud began to close up with the leader after this and collared him going up the slope to the Rock. Strathparker began to come up with the leaders here, followed by Prigunier, who at the Village secured the lead and ran home an easy winner several lengths ahead of Montezuma, which had well beaten Driving Cloud, the latter being rather hard pressed by Second Violin for his place. Time 3 min. 15 sec. another best recorded time for the distance in Hongkong. Prigunier was made favourite for this race.

After Mr. Nichols had weighed, he was chaired, and heartily cheered.

OFF DAY, 24th FEBRUARY.

The off day of the races took place on Saturday, the proceedings being of a more than ordinarily interesting character for such an occasion. The weather, though not so genial and bright as on the three legitimate days, being sunless, and rather colder, was yet not unfavourable, and some very good sport was witnessed. The attendance was unusually large for an off day, and the "swaps" business was in a most flourishing condition. For the first time for many years, steepchases were run, and these were looked forward to with a great deal of interest. Two such events were on the card and for them four and three ponies respectively faced the starter. In each event one pony only completed the distance without a refusal or a mishap, and that pony was in both cases the winner. The first steepchase seemed likely to fall to Mr. Paul's Chatterbox, which was leading well, and jumping freely until about two-thirds of the distance had been covered, when he "muffed" the jump near the rock and threw Mr. Nichols over his head. This cost him the race, for though Mr. Nichols was on his feet in a moment, he seemed to have pulled the bridle off the pony's head, or caused some other damage, for he was seen to be at work arranging it for some moments before he re-mounted. Mr. Paul's Cobnut had been put out of the race before this by refusing two of the jumps, and Captain Lindsay was left to win as he pleased by Gillie Callum refusing the last jump. In the next steepchase Chatterbox redeemed his previous unfortunate defeat by winning in a very handsome manner. He cleared every jump faultlessly, and was left to finish at his leisure in consequence of Scotch Reel swerving away from the last jump. The Ambassador Cup, for beaten

griffins, only brought out two ponies, one from Mr. F. S. Gordon's stable and the other from Mr. Fraser-Smith's. For some time it seemed that there would be no race for the cup, as only Mr. Brandt had weighed to ride Scotch Reel. Mr. Fraser-Smith, however, at length entered another pony, Outy Sark, observing he did so on behalf of the public, as it would be better than a walk over. It was pointed out to him that both ponies would be run in the same interest, Messrs. Gordon and Fraser-Smith having declared a confederacy throughout the meeting. Mr. Smith then declared the confederacy dissolved, and stated that the ponies would run in opposing interests. Such description as the race merits will be found below. An unpleasant scene occurred in the weighing room immediately after this race. Some of the stewards were commenting upon it when Mr. Smith entered, whereupon Mr. Coxon, the starter, and one of the stewards, addressed him, and observed that some explanation would have to be made with regard to the race, as in his opinion, and in the opinion of the other stewards, it was a most disgraceful affair. Mr. Smith said it was a self-inflicted injury. Mr. Coxon said it was a disgraceful affair, and that he should have that observation noted down to be dealt with hereafter. Mr. Smith, in a somewhat excited manner, repeated his observation. Mr. Coxon said he must request Mr. Smith to leave the weighing room, but the latter refused to do so, observing that he had as much right to be there as Mr. Coxon, and in answer to that gentleman, said he was entering a pony for the next race, the Opal Cup. There was a good deal of heat on both sides, and Mr. Coxon said that if Mr. Smith had been in any other position he would not have dared to give him the lie. Mr. Smith was retorting that if Mr. Coxon had not been old enough to be his father, when he made his allegation as to the race being disgraceful, but Mr. Coxon here interrupted, and said that sufficient had been said, and he did not wish to hear any more; Mr. Smith could put it all in his paper. Mr. Smith said his paper had nothing to do with racing; but Mr. Coxon said he thought it had a great deal to do with it. Mr. Smith asked to have it pointed out in the rules how the race was disgraceful, and he said he was sure no money had been put upon the race. Mr. Coxon said Mr. Smith knew very well what the rules were; he (Mr. Coxon) had been connected with the races for a great number of years, and he never saw such a disgraceful affair before. Mr. Smith intimated his opinion that he knew more of racing matters than Mr. Coxon could tell him, and the latter gentleman said he had doubtless forgotten more than Mr. Smith knew, but still he had probably not had the advantages Mr. Smith had had in gaining knowledge of racing. After some more words had passed, Mr. Coxon expressed a desire to hear no more, and wished Mr. Smith to discontinue addressing him. Mr. Smith said he was not going to be put down by Mr. Coxon; that gentleman had tried before to put him down, but it was no use. The cup in question was standing in the weighing room in its box with the lid drawn up to exhibit it, but after some time had elapsed the sergeant who was acting as clerk for the stewards was instructed not to allow any one to take it away. At the end of the races Mr. Smith came for his cup, and being told of the

instructions, he went to Mr. Tripp, the Clerk of the Course, and inquired on what grounds the cup was withheld. Mr. Tripp said a protest had been lodged by Mr. Coxon, and the cup would be sent up to the Club, pending the decision of the stewards; at present his instructions were not to let the cup be taken away, but as soon as he had the permission of the stewards, he would hand the cup over to Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith argued the matter for a time, and then Mr. Tripp left, upon which Mr. Smith re-entered the weighing room, and observed that he would have the cup, and if any one took it from him, he would have to fight for it. He took the cup from the table, telling the clerk that he would hold him blameless in the matter, and went out. After Mr. Tripp left Mr. Smith, the former gentleman also had some conversation with Mr. Brandt, who said Mr. Coxon had insulted him, and he threatened to punch that gentleman's head. Mr. Tripp advised him not to use such expressions, and left him. The clerk followed Mr. Smith out, and informed Mr. Tripp of what had taken place, and another scene occurred between Mr. Brandt and Mr. Smith on the other side. Mr. Smith stated what he had done, and that he would have the cup, and said Mr. Coxon could do what he pleased. Mr. Brandt said he also had something to say, and though Mr. Smith tried to get him away, he said that Mr. Coxon had insulted him; and that he was not going to be insulted there by anyone, least of all by Mr. Coxon. Mr. Brandt then exchanged positions with Mr. Smith, and began to endeavor to drag him away as he took up the conversation. Mr. Smith persisted, however, in his intention to address Mr. Tripp and Mr. Coxon, and excitedly claimed his right to the cup and vindicated what he had done. Mr. Tripp advised him to let the matter drop there, and to remember that they were on the Race Course. Mr. Smith said he stood on the Race Course one of the very few gentlemen present. Mr. Tripp said, "Thank you, Mr. Smith." Mr. Smith said he was not referring to Mr. Tripp. Mr. Tripp said the remark had a very limited scope. Mr. Smith said it was so; he was one of the exceedingly few gentlemen present—the extremely few; and that was merely his own opinion, but the opinion of every person present; everyone who was there was of opinion that he was in the right. The unpleasant scene then came to an end.

The Opal Cup brought four runners, and it was carried off by Mr. W. Morgan's Faugh-a-Ballagh after a capital race. The mares were excellent contestants, the Champion Mares falling to lead calling himself Tom Cannon on Mr. F. S. Gordon's Allegro. He held his position no doubt in consequence of his featherweight, 6st. 9lbs. including saddle, &c., the race being for catch weights. The mares race for beaten ponies was gained by "Horse" on Mr. Paul's Shamrock.

The events came off as follows:—
STEEPLE CHASE, Entrance \$5, with \$100 added; for all ponies; weight for inches with 7lbs. extra. Twice round.
Capt. Lindsay's Dalhousie, 11st. 5lb. (owner) 1
Mr. F. Fraser-Smith's Gillie Callum, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Gunn) 2
Mr. Paul's Chatterbox, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Nichols) 3
Mr. Keefoo's Cobnut, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Reynolds) 0

The ponies went off to a struggling start. Cobnut with the lead, and all cleared the water

jump well, but Cobnut refused the first jump afterwards, and all the others taking it readily he was passed by them, and by the time he was persuaded to get over the jump, he was hopelessly out of the race. He also made his position still worse by refusing the next jump. Capt. Lindsay took his lead on Dalhousie, but Gillie Callum took up the running soon afterwards, only to be displaced by Chatterbox, and coming past the Stand after the first round the latter led with Dalhousie second, and the three went together. Chatterbox kept the lead until the jump near the Bank Road was reached, when he made a very clumsy leap, pulling down a large piece of the wall with his heels, and throwing his rider. Mr. Nichols was seen on his legs again, and would not have lost much ground but that the bridle was pulled over the pony's head and it took some time to get it right again. Dalhousie led and Gillie Callum kept close company until reaching the jump into the straight for home. Dalhousie took it well, but Gillie Callum refused, and thus the former was left to canvas home a winner. Cobnut and Chatterbox thus got nearer to Gillie Callum, but both failed to catch him. Chatterbox galloping all the way down the straight in the endeavor, and finishing third only a few lengths behind.

AMBAADOR CUP, value \$100, for beaten Griffins. Weight for inches. One mile and a half.
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Scotch Reel, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Brandt) 1
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Cutty Sark, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Gunn) 2
Mr. Keefoo's Cobnut, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Reynolds) 3
Mr. Paul's Shamrock, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Nichols) 0

Messrs. Gordon and Fraser-Smith declared the confederacy dissolved at this race, and that the ponies ran in opposing interests, the ponies belonging to either stable. It looked for some time likely to be no race until Mr. Smith entered Cutty Sark. The race calls for little description; Cutty Sark took the lead and both ponies ran the first round very easily, but after going past the Rock Cutty Sark was sent along, and he ultimately won the race by about three-quarters of a length. Scotch Reel being apparently held all the way down the straight, and not let out until it was too late to catch Cutty Sark the right side of the post, when he considerably decreased the latter's lead.

CHAMPION MARES, for all winning ponies catch weights. One mile.
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Allegro (Tom Cannon) 1
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Second Violin (Shoeman) 2
Mr. Paul's Sunlight (Horse) 3
Mr. Paul's Renfer (Punch) 0
Mr. Paul's Montezuma (Pond) 0
Major Bagstock's Wild Wolf (Aling) 0
Mr. Henry's Too Too (John Scott) 0

Allegro with a feather weight of 6st. 9lbs. won long in the race till near the Village, when Tom Cannon's Shamrock Colossal double brought up his mount in good style, passed the whole field rapidly, and won good race by about three lengths. Shoeman brought up Second Violin with a splendid rush at the finish, and just did Horse out of second place on Sunlight. Time 2 min. 41 sec.

MAPOO RACE, for beaten ponies, catch weights. Seven furlongs.
Mr. Paul's Shamrock (Horse) 1
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Gang Forward (Shoeman) 2
Mr. Paul's Renfer (Punch) 3
Mr. York's Hiale (Hing) 0
Mr. Morgan's Pearl (Joe) 0
Mr. Brownhead's Castigator (School) 0
Mr. Henry's Inachus (John Scott) 0
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Cutty Sark (Tom Cannon) 0
Mr. Paul's Shamrock (Horse) 0
Mr. Paul's Shamrock (Horse) 0
Pearl got the worst of the start, and never made up much of its lost ground. Gang Forward was the first to take the lead. Horse soon pushed Shamrock to the front, however, and held the lead the whole way into the straight, half way down which Gang Forward challenged, but Horse shook Shamrock up splendidly, and won a fine race by rather less than a length. He led all third. Time 1 min. 49 sec.

OPAL CUP, value—, for beaten subscription griffins. Weight for inches. Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. W. Morgan's Faugh-a-Ballagh, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Nichols) 1
Capt. David's Duglins, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Sampson) 2
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Darnley, 11st. 13lb. (Mr. Brandt) 3
Mr. Neptunus's Malorido, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Reynolds) 0

The ponies were got off to a very good start, Faugh-a-Ballagh at once taking up the running, with Darnley second, and Malorido third. This order was maintained until a short distance before the Village was reached, when Mr. Sampson began to bring Bagging up. The latter quickly got past Malorido and last Darnley coming down the straight, but could not quite catch Faugh-a-Ballagh, which got home first by about half a length. Darnley was about the same distance behind in third place. Time 1 min. 42 sec.

STEEPLE CHASE, Entrance \$5, with \$100 added—for ponies which have never won a race or steepchase in Hongkong, China or Japan.
Mr. Paul's Chatterbox, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Nichols) 1
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Scotch Reel, 11st. 7lb. (Mr. Gunn) 2
Mr. Brownhead's Blander, 11st. 7lb. (Lieut. Porter) 3

Chatterbox was favorite for this race, and Blander was only given a reason to suppose his chance hopeless, for on Mr. Porter giving him a preliminary trial at the jump next to the water jump, he showed an utter disinclination to face it, and after some thrashing he scrambled over the turf wall on his side at a time to the great amusement of the lookers-on. Scotch Reel took the lead, but Mr. Nichols brought Chatterbox up to the water jump with a rush, and he cleared it like a bird, and took the lead, though he was shortly after displaced again by Scotch Reel. Blander was at once declined to negotiate the water jump, but he was persuaded to take it in the same way as was Chatterbox, by scrambling over, and almost falling on his nose in the water. He surmounted every jump in the same way excepting the last, which he cleared in a more legitimate fashion. Taking the turn round to the far side of the course, Chatterbox went to the front, closely followed by Scotch Reel, and both jumped very well, but Chatterbox went over without any diminution of speed, and had thus an advantage. Scotch Reel, however, kept well up until the last jump, when he utterly spoiled his chances by swerving away from it, and Chatterbox was left to finish as he pleased, being too far ahead to be in any danger by the time Scotch Reel got over.

The following table shows the successful owners, jockeys, and horses at this meeting, and the number and wins by each, including the OFF DAY.

OWNERS.	JOCKEYS.
Mr. Paul 10	Mr. Nichols 11
Mr. John Paul 5	Mr. Allen 5
Mr. St. Andrew 3	Mr. Brandt 3
Mr. F. S. Gordon 3	Mr. Tennant 2
Mr. Fraser-Smith 3	Mr. Zuck 2
Mr. Keefoo 1	Mr. Stewart 1
Mr. York 1	Mr. Abner 1
Mr. St. Vincent 1	Mr. Stoholm 1
Major Bagstock 1	Mr. Gunn 1
Mr. W. Morgan 1	Capt. Lindsay 1
Capt. Lindsay 1	
	29

THE BUFFS' BALL AT THE CITY HALL.

The officers of the Third Buffs gave a grand ball at the City Hall on the evening of the 29th February, when nearly 300 guests were present, including H. E. the Administrator and Mrs. Marsh, and Miss Thornton; their Excellencies Vice-Admiral Willis, C.B., Major-General Sargent, C.B., and Centre-Admiral Meyer, commanding the French fleet on the China Station. These distinguished visitors were received by a guard of honour consisting of two officers, the band, and fifty men of the regiment, who lined each side of the hall and the staircase. The ball was opened by the Administrator and Mrs. Hobson. Dapclung was kept up with spirit until the small hours of the next morning, and the gathering was of a thoroughly successful and enjoyable character.

Upon the decorations of the building a very large amount of care and skill were lavished, and the result must have been highly gratifying to the Decoration Committee; the decorations were certainly both effective and original, and reflect great credit upon all who took part in their construction, and especially upon Capt. Gelston, who was the principal designer. To begin with the entrance, the appearance of the hall on first entering it was very striking—the pillars were bristling with pikes dressed round them, while between each pillar, standing out from among a bank of flowers and pot plants, was a field gun. There were also shields hung on the pillars bearing the badges of the regiment. On the first landing, pointing towards the entrance, was a calling card, with a small mountain gun on either side, and on the top landing, facing this gun, was a trophy composed of athletic implements. On the wall above these guns, on either side of the central window, was a star formed of the scabbards of the officers' swords, alternated with ramrods. All round the first landing and up each of the staircases leading from thence to the upper landing, were parked rifles with bayonets or swords fixed on them; only about two inches intervened between the barrels, and a kind of dado was thus formed, which was continued along the top landing. On the middle door of this landing was a very skillfully arranged trophy of the tools of the pioneers of the regiment, consisting of spades, pickaxes, &c., all brightly burnished, and underneath stood three small brass markers among some pot plants. It was upon the ball room, however, that the greatest amount of skill and labour was expended, and the room has perhaps never been decorated with better effect. At the upper end of the room was placed that property of the regiment which is valued above all others, and to which every member looks with a certain amount of reverence—these are two ragged flags, reduced to most wretched wrecks by the numerous fights through which they have been honourably borne, they are the Queen's and the Regimental Colours. These formed part of a grand design which filled up the centre of that end of the room. The background was formed by dark curtains, in the centre of which was worked "A. D. 1872" the year in which the regiment was formed. This is again a matter of great pride with the whole regiment, which claims the honour of being the oldest in the British army, and it is the only one which is allowed to march through

the City of London with band playing, colours flying, and bayonets fixed. The regiment has indeed a long and famous history to look back upon, and can trace its pedigree back to the time when it was formed from a London Train Band of which the famous John Gilpin, who was "a citizen of credit and renown," was an officer. Before this background the drums and bugles were artistically piled on either side of the challenge shield of the regiment, on which are inscribed the names of the companies which for certain periods held the palm as being the best shots. In front of these again were pot plants, small mortars, and three piles of rifles, stacked so as to support the three drum-major's staves, with their belts, the centre one being a very handsome staff presented by General Napier, formerly a colonel of the regiment. On the wall above these was a star composed of the swords and revolvers of the officers, and a corresponding star was fixed at the opposite end of the room, formed of those of the sergeants' and drummers' swords. The whole way round the room shields were hung on the walls bearing the crests of the regiment—a dragon, the old cross, a white horse, its duplicate, and a rose and crown, to denote that it is an old English regiment. These were exceedingly well executed, the credit being due to Lieut. Knight, by whom they were designed, and for the most part executed. On each of the pillars on the sides of the room there was also a shield bearing the crest of an officer of the regiment. Over every door and window of the ball room, the landing, staircase, and refreshment room were the names of the various fields or sieges on which the "grand old Buffs" have earned their hard-earned and glorious laurels; these were worked in gold letters on a red ground. The same kind of dado work of rifles with fixed bayonets and swords which decorated the staircase was ranged round this room. The doors were draped round with red and white, and at the lower end of the room were two large Chinese flags. Over each shield on the walls three flags were placed, and round each gas burner, stars composed of bayonets were fixed, draped with three colours on either side. Support was set out in St. Andrew's Hall, like tables being arranged and laid with much taste. The decorations of this room, however, were of a much simpler character, the walls being simply well draped with colours. Tables were laid for 140, and one end of the room was partitioned off for the band. The refreshment room, ladies' room, and card and smoking room were treated in a way corresponding with the rest of the decorations, but the verandah were treated in a manner that was most novel, and was no doubt found most delightful for dancers seeking a little air; it was laid out in great arbours of boughs from trees, each containing seats for two, thus giving quite a rustic charm to the place. In all 1,400 rifles, and close upon 2,000 bayonets were used in the decorations, and some faint idea may thus be formed of the labour this work entailed. The Ball Committee consisted of Major Halsey, Captain Newnam-Davis, and Lieuts. Bunbury and Vyvyan; and the Decoration Committee was composed of Captain Gelston, Lieuts. Knight, Chippindall, Somerset, and Vyvyan, who were assisted by many others.

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